

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12275 210637Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01

/111 W

----- 099763

O 210545Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8887

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION - PRESS FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

1. AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 20, OPPOSITION FIGURES REPRESENTING, VARIOUSLY, PEOPLES ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT, ELEMENTS OF PRESS FREEDOM MOVEMENT OR THEMSELVES GATHERED BEFORE OFFICES OF THREE NEWSPAPERS (SONG THAN, DAI DAN TOC AND DIEN TIN) TO PROTEST EXPECTED CONFISCATION OF THESE PAPERS BY GVN. WHEN CONFISCATION BEGAN, DEMONSTRATORS BURNED SOME COPIES IN PROTEST.

2. PRINCIPAL DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE SONG THAN PRINTING PLANT ON HONG THAP TU STREET AND EYEWITNESS REPORTS ESTIMATE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION AT 200 PERSONS WITH FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED ONLOOKERS. THE DEMONSTRATION BEGAN IN EARLY AFTERNOON AND DISSIPATED BY SIX O'CLOCK. TWO VIETNAMESE REPORTERS HAD FILM REMOVED FROM THEIR CAMERAS BUT THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE AND NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. MAIN PARTICIPANTS WERE MEMBERS OF RADICAL OPPOSITION INCLUDING MADAME NGO BA THANH AND FR. CHAN TIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12275 210637Z

2. SIX PAPERS HAD ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY THAT THEY PLANNED PUBLISH

FULL TEXT INDICTMENT NUMBER 1 READ BY FR TRAN HUU THANH IN HUE SEPTEMBER 8. SUMMARY OF THESE CHARGES, OMITTING PRESIDENT THIEU'S NAME, ALREADY APPEARED IN PRESS (HOA BINH, SEPTEMBER 15). PUBLICATION FULL TEXT, HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED INVITE CONFISCATION FOR WHICH DEMONSTRATION PLANNED. PAPERS PLANNING SUCH PUBLICATION INCLUDED THE THREE CONFISCATED PLUS DAN LUAN (PUBLISHED WITHOUT INDICTMENT), DONG PHUONG (NOT PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF DISPUTE WITH PRINTING HOUSE) AND HOA BINH. PREVIOUSLY IN FOREFRONT OF PRESS FREEDOM CAMPAIGN, HOA BINH OMITTED PUBLICATION ON SEPTEMBER 20 WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

3. FRIDAY'S FIZZLING DEMONSTRATIONS WERE FOLLOWED BY AN IMPROMPTU "PRESS CONFERENCE" HELD DOWNTOWN SAIGON ON SATURDAY MORNING BY ABOUT A DOZEN OPPOSITION PERSONALITIES INCLUDING MADAME NGO BA THANH. WHEN THIS FAILED TO AROUSE MUCH INTEREST THE GROUP ESCORTED BY POLICE MARCHED TO THE LOWER HOUSE WHERE A GLASS DOOR WAS SMASHED AND A FLOWER POT UPSET IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE THE POLICE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE DEMONSTRATORS WENT HOME AND THE POLICE WERE LEFT TO RESTORE THE FLOWER POT TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE.

4. COMMENT: PRESS FREEDOM AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTERACTING TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM. HOWEVER, NO NEW POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE JOINED EITHER MOVEMENT IN PAST FEW DAYS AND FRIDAY'S DEMONSTRATION OBVIOUSLY FAILED TO GAIN THE RESPONSE FOR WHICH ITS ORGANIZERS HAD HOPED. ON SEPTEMBER 19, PRESS REPORTS INTERVIEW WITH ARCHBISHOP BINH (SEPTEL) IN WHICH, WHILE DEPLORING HARDSHIPS PEOPLE ENDURE AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES, COUNSELED MODERATION IN FORM OF PROTEST.
LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, NEWSPAPERS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON12275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740265-1100
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740924/aaaaauke.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATION - PRESS FREEDOM CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: STATE CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005